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HERSETH SANDLIN STATEMENT ON HEALTH CARE

Washington, DC- Rep. Herseth Sandlin issued the following statement in response to the release of a new health care plan by the President:

“I am reviewing the President’s proposal to determine how it would affect South Dakota. Before making a final decision, I would need to see a full version of the bill as well as an independent evaluation from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office to determine the short- and long-term affect on the nation’s budget deficit, among other details. Most importantly, I will need to hear from South Dakota’s families, health care providers and small business owners.

“Since the outset of the health care reform debate last year, I’ve said that any health care proposal must meet the dual goals of increasing access to quality care while decreasing cost. I voted against the House version of the health care bill because it failed to meet these goals for South Dakota. Likewise, I could not support the version of the bill that passed the Senate ‘as is.’ It is still my hope that we will be able to find a bipartisan way forward to address health care reform, because it is such an urgent priority for South Dakota and the nation.

“I look forward to this Thursday’s discussion of the proposal at the bipartisan, bicameral health care meeting. The American people deserve a good faith negotiation that includes ideas from both parties.”

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